

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

BUREAU OF EDUCATION,

WASHINGTON.

THIRTY BOOKS OF GREAT FICTION.

The best and most complete expression of the ideals and tendencies of any people at any time is to be found in their literature. For modern times this expression is to be found most often and most fully in great works of fiction. Without an acquaintance with some of these books it is impossible to know the inner life—the real life—of the peoples of whom such a knowledge is most worth while. Any reading of history, any scientific study of economics or sociology, should be supplemented by some reading of the writings of the masters of fiction. The Home Education Division of the Bureau of Education has therefore prepared the following list of 30 books of fiction, mostly modern, for those who wish to read to good purpose in this field.

The value of such literature is well indicated by Dr. C. Alphonso Smith, of the University of Virginia, in his book, *What Can Literature Do for Me?* He says of literature of this and other kinds that it can give you an outlet for your own ideals and thoughts, it can keep before you the vision of the ideal, it can give you a better knowledge of human nature, it can restore the past to you, it can show you the glory of the commonplace, it can give you the mastery of your own language.

At the end of this list of 30 books is a list of 5 books helpful in fixing a purpose and acquiring a method in reading. Those who take this course of reading under the direction of the Bureau of Education will be expected to read these five books also.

For admission to this course it is necessary only to write to the Home Education Division of the Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C., giving your name, post-office address, your age, and a brief statement of your education and occupation. Readers who wish to secure the bureau's certificate must notify the bureau at the time they begin each book, and when each book is finished they must send a summary consisting of a description of the principal characters, the chief episodes, and their own impressions. Some of the books do not lend themselves to this form of summary. In these cases send a brief statement of the essential features of the books.

To each person who gives satisfactory evidence of having read all the books on the list a certificate will be awarded bearing the seal of the United States Bureau of Education and signed by the Commissioner of Education. All young men and women who want to know the best there is in the literature of the world and to gain the inspiration it gives are invited to join this National Reading Circle. It is hoped many thousands will do so.

By application to local or State libraries readers may be able to borrow these books. The Bureau of Education does not furnish them.

Charles Alphonso Smith, Edgar Allan Poe professor of English in the University of Virginia; Charles Forster Smith, professor of Greek in the University of Wisconsin; Richard Burton, professor of English literature in the University

of Minnesota; and William Lyon Phelps, professor of English literature in Yale University, will assist the Bureau of Education in directing this course.

In writing about this course refer to it as "United States Bureau of Education, Home Education Division, Reading Course No. 6," or as "Thirty Books of Great Fiction."

READING COURSE NO. 6.

1. Adam Bede. George Eliot.
2. Arabian Nights.
3. A Modern Instance. William Dean Howells. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co. \$1.50.
4. Clarissa Harlowe. Samuel Richardson.
5. David Copperfield. Charles Dickens.
6. Guy Mannering. Sir Walter Scott.
7. History of Henry Esmond. William M. Thackeray.
8. Ivanhoe. Sir Walter Scott.
9. Joseph Vance. William F. De Morgan. New York, Henry Holt & Co. \$1.75.
10. Kidnapped. Robert Louis Stevenson.
11. Lorna Doone. R. D. Blackmore.
12. Luck of Roaring Camp. Bret Harte. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co. \$1.
13. Ordeal of Richard Feverel. George Meredith. New York, Chas. Scribners' Sons. \$1.
14. Pilgrim's Progress. John Bunyan.
15. Pride and Prejudice. Jane Austen.
16. Robinson Crusoe. Daniel Defoe.
17. Romola. George Eliot.
18. Tale of Two Cities. Charles Dickens.
19. The Cloister and the Hearth. Charles Reade.
20. Vanity Fair. William M. Thackeray.
21. Vicar of Wakefield. Oliver Goldsmith.
22. Last of the Mohicans. J. Fenimore Cooper.
23. Scarlet Letter. Nathaniel Hawthorne.
24. The Pilot. J. Fenimore Cooper.
25. Les Misérables. Victor Hugo.
26. The Three Musketeers. Alexander Dumas.
27. Père Goriot. Honoré de Balzac.
28. Anna Karenina. Count Leo Tolstoi.
29. With Fire and Sword. Henryk Sienkiewicz.
30. Treasure Island. Robert Louis Stevenson.

SOME GOOD HELPS TO LITERATURE.

1. What Can Literature Do for Me? C. Alphonso Smith. Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday Page & Co. \$1.
2. Great Books as Life Teachers. Newton Dwight Hillis. Chicago, Ill., Fleming H. Revell. \$1.50.
3. Literature and Life. W. D. Howells. New York, Harper & Bros. \$2.25.
4. Aims of Literary Study. H. Corson. New York, Macmillan Co. \$0.75.
5. World's Literature and Its Place in General Culture. R. G. Moulton. New York, Macmillan Co. \$1.75.

NOTE.—When no publisher is mentioned, the books may be obtained at varying prices, depending on the quality of the edition. Apply to any store selling books or to any book dealer or publisher.

The Bureau of Education does not lend nor sell the books.